

Telecom Giant Eyes Up Memorial Hill

*Not a
fair
exuse
mount*

Midway looking into cell tower possibilities

By Sam Allen, Courier Staff

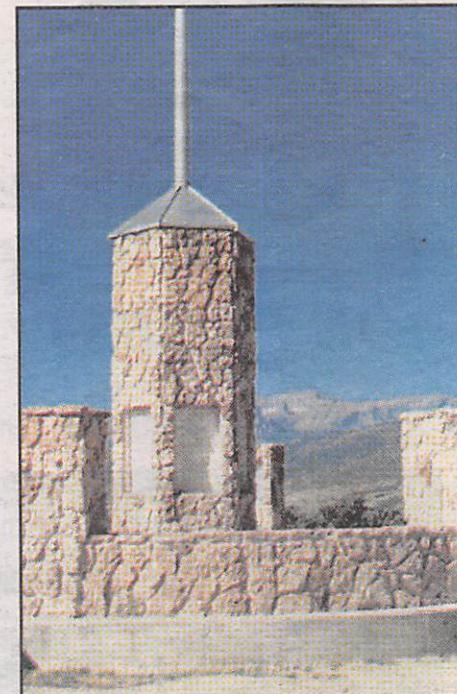
Last week veterans from around the valley came to protest AT&T's application to put four cell site antennas on Memorial Hill. Midway's Memorial Hill honors those veterans from Wasatch County who died for their country.

The proposed antennas would be hidden within four flagpoles that AT&T would erect on the opposite side of the hilltop from the existing flagpole. AT&T would also pay \$600 per month to the county which would then be used to maintain Memorial Hill. For the most part, the veterans opposed the plan because they did not feel it was appropriate to have commercial development in a park that honored those who died for their country.

Dan Ballstaedt, a veteran of three wars, stated, "If we turn that hill over to AT&T, it ceases to be Memorial Hill." Others expressed similar sentiments. One citizen commented that he would rather maintain the hill through slightly higher taxes than receive money from a commercial company. All agreed that the hill needs to be better maintained.

Commissioner Mike Kohler spearheaded the project since Memorial Hill is in desperate need of improvements. In the past, vandals have stolen the plaques from the site as well as caused other damage to the park. Drug users and drunks have also favored the site for their activities since it is an ideal location to watch out for the law enforcement officials who may be after them. Since AT&T would have improved the whole the hill when it put up its own equipment, Kohler felt like it would have been a great deal for the county.

Questar has already donated a mile of water pipe for Memorial Hill but the



Telecommunications giant, AT&T wants to put cell phone towers atop Midway's ailing Memorial Hill.

county has not had the money to install it. It currently lies in a county field unused.

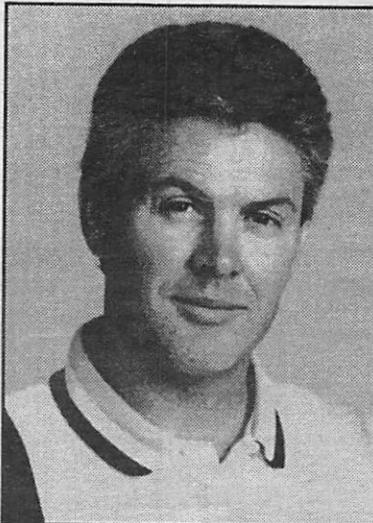
The existing flagpole on Memorial Hill is approximately 60 feet tall. The four flagpoles that AT&T would like to install are each approximately 40 feet tall. They would be located in a half-moon configuration about fifty feet from the existing pole.

Each pole would taper upwards from its 12 to 14 inches base and would house an omni-directional antenna inside. The base station itself, a building about 12 feet wide, 28 feet long and nine feet high, would be partially buried in the hillside below the crest of the hill. It would be connected to the flagpoles by a buried cable. Construction on the site would take approximately two to three months.

Since the county requires any cell tower site to have extra space for other carriers, there is also the possibility that AT&T would not be the only tenant up on the hill. If other carriers wanted to put their own antennas on the hill, they would have to build additional flagpoles for them. Although this may not be desirable, the upside is that the county would get even more money to maintain the Hill.

No public decision has yet made by the county commissioners on whether they would allow construction to begin.

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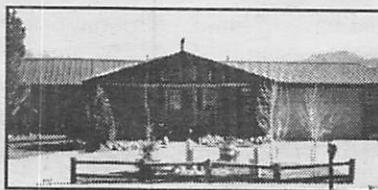
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